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DODGE

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK
Chamber revives an old Extravaganza favourite to promote Elk Point's retail businessesPage 5

SPORTS
Elk Point Skating Club welcomes a new coach to the lineup as a new season hits the ice.....Page 12

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Vol. 36 No. 42

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

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NEW ENTRANCE SIGN UNDER CONSTRUCTION - Elk Point Public Works staff fastens braces in place on the massive logs forming the background of the new Elk Point entrance sign located across Highway 41 from Railway Avenue. Work was underway last week to create the new sign which will match its counterpart at the north end of the community adjacent to the Peter Fidler statue. Building the sign is one of the final tasks on the Public Works' summer to-do list for 2016.

Vicki Brooker photo

Town agrees to continue with recycling

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point town council met in camera with Dwight Dalton, president of Quik Pick Waste Disposal at the beginning of last Tuesday's regular meeting, and not only approved Quik Pick's extension of the pilot project to Jan. 31, 2017, but also decided to accept the company's proposal to continue to provide the service after that time, with the cost to be shared between the town and the County of St. Paul. The County had indicated that they had agreed to the proposal earlier on Tuesday.

Council went back in camera at the end of the meeting to discuss the possibility of blue bag recycling for homeowners that could be provided to town residents by the same company.

Crossing light

Coun. Lorne Young brought forward a concern from the Interagency Health and Wellness Committee regarding the safety of pedestrians crossing Highway 41, with the committee suggesting a pedestrian-activated crossing light be installed at some point along the highway through town. Both he and Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich noted that many workers cross the highway on foot on their way to the industrial subdivision each day. Council passed a motion to have CAO Ken Gwozdz explore the possibility of obtaining a crossing light.

(Continued on Page 2)

CNRL still seeking tax break from County of St. Paul

JANANI WHITFIELD
Review Staff

After having a request for a property tax break denied by County of St. Paul council earlier this spring, Canadian Natural came back to make the request for a 30 per cent tax break, as it attempts to right-size the rate of return on oil production.

Nicholas Gafuik, a public affairs advisor with CNRL, began by acknowledging the "good working relationship we have with the County of St. Paul ... we look forward to continuing it as we go along."

However, the last two years have not been easy for the oil and gas sector, he noted, with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) forecasting a decline of \$50 billion in total oil and natural gas capital investment in 2016 from 2014 levels. He acknowledged that a pending carbon tax would affect business as well.

"We do think that the industry has undergone a fundamental transformation," Gafuik said, pointing to the

rise of hydraulic fracturing in the United States, which has turned the States from Canada's biggest consumer to its biggest competitor.

However, he said CNRL remained optimistic about the province's fortunes, knowing Alberta had huge reserves of oil and highly skilled workers.

Using a graph of historic prices, Gafuik said that there has, in the past, been better return on investments with oil at \$40 a barrel in 2004, than at \$100 per barrel in 2014. While oil companies can't do anything about the global price of oil, it can attempt to constrain costs to maintain a reasonable rate of return, he said.

"What is your lifting cost in the County of St. Paul?" asked Coun. Glen Ockerman.

Factoring in just operating costs, Andre Campeau, operations superintendent in Bonnyville, estimated the cost was just around \$14.50 a barrel in the area.

Coun. Laurent Amyotte wanted to know if CNRL was asking for a 30 per cent tax break, was the company asking its shareholders to take a 30 per cent cut on their dividends?

Campeau answered that it was senior management that was bearing the brunt of losses with wage cuts.

"If we take the hit on shareholders, then they'll go away," he said, adding that without that investment, the company wouldn't exist. The company would rather borrow to ensure it could continue to pay shareholders, he said.

Reeve Steve Upham said he felt this was a bit of a "fool's paradise" to borrow to pay dividends, adding, "It doesn't fit my business paradigm."

Gafuik said it was more complicated than that, answering that CNRL borrowed to fund capital expenditures, with council having a laugh as Upham told them it appeared they were in the same game as farmers.

"There's no reason we can't have a healthy industry if we can deliver on a cost structure reflective of the new reality we face," said Gafuik, saying the presentation was really about finding ways to improve the way they do business.

(Continued on Page 2)

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AAMDC reps visit County of St. Paul council

JANANI WHITFIELD
Review Staff

Two major items weighing on rural municipalities' minds include oil and gas activity and the impact of Bill 6 on farms, both of which came up as representatives from the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) came to the Oct. 11 County of St. Paul council meeting.

Al Kemmere, president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC), said the meeting was a chance to meet face-to-face and listen to the county and answer any questions council might have.

One item that municipalities have been waiting to see in the past year is the Government of Alberta's proposed changes to the Municipal Government Act. While urban municipalities clamoured for changes in how linear assessment was distributed, rural municipalities were happy to see the review did

not tinker with this, Kemmere said, adding, "We will collect the linear as we have in the past."

However, he noted that linear assessment is volatile, and there is likely going to be a 10 to 15 per cent decline in linear assessment this year across the province.

Rural municipalities however, are not happy with one proposed amendment to the Municipal Government Act to move to a centralized assessment model for machinery and equipment, Kemmere noted.

As it stands right now, each municipality is responsible for assessing industrial equipment and properties within its own borders, but a centralized assessment policy would mean the province oversees such assessment for all industry throughout Alberta, including sites like the Pengrowth plant.

Council discussed the fact that industry has been pushing for the change, with the view to see consistency in how

machinery and equipment is assessed.

CAO Sheila Kitz said she was concerned about what would happen if the province was to requisition municipalities to cover the cost of assessments. If oil companies were to go bust, the counties would be left with the bill, she said.

Coun. Glen Ockerman wanted to know why the province was making the change at all, adding, "I still think we're trying to fix a tire that's not broken, while the other three tires here in Alberta are all flat."

Bill 6

Another item AAMDC updated council was on Bill 6, with Kemmere saying he was sitting on one of the consultation tables on bringing in safety codes for agricultural operations.

He said the table he was sitting at was "very well-represented by agriculture," and said the challenge is deciding how and when to enforce regulations for farm operations.

"Do we need to have a safer environ-

ment? Yes, we do," he said, adding the challenge is deciding how and when regulations come into effect.

For instance, most farms have "legacy equipment" that has been passed down and which may not meet code, such as grain bins without ladder cages, he said. Coming up with regulations means clarifying that things like legacy equipment don't necessarily need to be shelved, but that people must buy items that meet code going forward, he said.

Occupational health and safety laws won't apply to family farms, but will apply to family farms that have employees, but trying to figure out who qualifies as an employee is also a challenge, he said.

"If you can't bring in your neighbor to run a grain truck for three days, it affects your ability to harvest," he said, adding that consultations are looking at a number of factors, like number of hours and pay to decide what constitutes an employee. (Continued on Page 12)

CNRL

(Continued from Front Page)

Campeau acknowledged the industry had contributed to the problem; as the price of oil increased, oil companies kept paying increasing costs, which in turn increased costs for everyone else, including municipalities.

"How do we get back to 2004?" he said, answering himself that oil companies will have to take things at a slower pace as they deal with slumps in pricing.

After the CNRL delegation left, Coun. Cliff Martin put forth a motion to deny the request, which was carried unanimously.

CAO Sheila Kitz said in an interview following the meeting that council was aware the request was coming, but recognized that it would not be possible to give just one company a 30 per cent reduction in its property taxes, and that giving such a cut across the board for non-residential assessment would equate to a \$6 million hit to the county's revenues.

In response to the news council had denied the request, Julie Woo, public affairs advisor with CNRL, said it is appropriate that industry pays taxes in line with what it receives in municipal services and at a fair assessment.

"But property taxes in Alberta have risen to an unsustainable level," she said, adding in the 10 years between 2004 and 2014, Canadian Natural saw a 1.5 times increase in its revenue per barrel of oil equivalent, but in that same time period, its property taxes

grew 5.2 times more than revenues per barrel of oil equivalent.

Higher property taxes will likely result in the abandonment of wells and facilities, she said, adding, "Some municipalities have acknowledged that it is better for their communities if we can work together during these challenging times to prevent the shut-in and abandonment of wells because abandonment leads to no property taxes. Though they are maintaining a lower property tax revenue for a longer period of time, wells and facilities remain on production for longer, ultimately resulting in more property taxes for the municipality in the long-term. More importantly, this helps to maintain local employment and businesses in the area that support the oil and natural gas industry."

CNRL Donation request

While council was not receptive to the idea of providing tax breaks, it did agree to another request from CNRL to support its annual charity fundraiser by purchasing a table of eight for \$480. Proceeds from the

event would support the St. Paul Soccer Association and Haying in the 30s, as well as other charitable causes in the Lakeland area, council heard.

Upham noted that the \$480 request was small potatoes compared to the request for the 30 per cent tax break, but agreeing to the request was a sign that "we support the work they do," and recognized the fact that CNRL was an "integral part" of the community.

Council carried a motion to support the request.

Property taxes left outstanding

In other woes of oil and gas companies, Kitz told council that \$13,000 would likely not be able to be collected, and which was \$8,000 more than remains outstanding in property taxes from oil companies, which county staff had budgeted.

Kitz suggested setting up a "doubtful account," which could be written off if necessary. This is not often done, she said, noting she believed it was only the second time she had to set up such a doubtful account since beginning work as the county's CAO.

Council

(Continued from Front Page)

Fibre Optics

After hearing a presentation by Axia Fibre Optics Internet at the recent Alberta Urban Municipalities Association convention, council agreed to invite the company to make a presentation to town council to learn further details. Axia has installed high speed Internet via fibre optic cable in a number of rural Alberta towns and is looking for 40 more towns across the province to provide with the service, they learned at the convention.

Northern Lights

Council approved the upcoming budget for the Northern Lights Library System, which they were pleased to learn, features no

increase in the town's requisition for the coming year.

Budget meetings set

Council will do some budgeting of their own on Dec. 6 and 13 to set the 2017 capital budget.

Walking trail

The town has been advised that a portion of both the 2016 and 2017 Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) capital funding can be used toward the amount still owing on the matching CFEP grant for upgrades of the walking trail. More trees will be added along the west trail next year, and Mayor Parrish Tung said he has learned that TD Financial may have a grant available for tree planting. Allan and Debbie Warawa have also contacted the town to say they would be interested in donating some trees

for this project. The CAO noted that public works superintendent Jay Duffee and his team has done an excellent job of completing the first phase of the Trails project, with sidewalks, concrete and brick foundations for rest stop benches, tree planting and work underway on the south town sign.

Sidewalk talk

The early snowfall prompted council to address an issue that has been delayed for some time. A sidewalk in front of a business that underwent renovations has never had the brickwork put in place between the cement sidewalk and the curb and council agreed that it can't be cleaned properly of snow and ice as it is. The business owner will be contacted to discuss the placement of the brickwork.



Elk Point Skating Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6:00 P.M.

Wed., October 26, 2016

A.G. Ross Arena - Horizon Room

Elk Point Oilmen's

BIG BUCK CONTEST

Saturday, December 3, 2016

ELK POINT CURLING RINK

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Concession / Bar

\$30 Entry - No Entries after 3:00 pm

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or Brant Evans 780-614-7199

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UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

Land Auction

Pt of NW 13-57-6-W4

Sale Location: Senior Centre Conference Room, 5010 - 48 Street, Elk Point, AB

63.15 Acres +/- of pasture land. Fenced. Dugout. Approx. \$700 gas lease revenue. Ideal location to build.

List is subject to additions and deletions. This listing is only a guide and in no way a guarantee of size, description or year.

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Provincial education results received

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

The area's largest school division is using the results from the 2015-16 provincial accountability pillar summary to celebrate its strengths, and also highlight areas that need improvement.

Results from the diploma and provincial achievement tests are reported each year by Alberta Education in the Overall Accountability Pillar Summary. Surveys are also sent out to parents, students, and teachers in Grades 4, 7, and 10, and a report focusing on a variety of areas of student-life is put together.

"St. Paul Education's overall results have shown steady improvement over the past several years," says a media release from SPERD.

Assistant Superintendent Patricia Gervais spoke to the board at its regular monthly meeting last Wednesday about the results, and noted "Results in the French Immersion program have been consistently positive."

It was also added that "Provincial trends over time in high school math achievement are still

emerging as the new high school math curriculum was introduced within the past five years," according to a media release from SPERD.

"We always hear about the math results," said Superintendent Glen Brodziak, when introducing the results at last week's meeting. He added that the direction has once

again changed, with the curriculum appearing to be going back to focusing on the basics of math.

Brodziak noted that the results are also broken down, so that parents can see how their children's individual schools are doing. The results will also be presented to parent councils.

(Continued on Page 11)



GRADE 9 AWARD WINNER - F. G. Miller Jr. - Sr. High School principal Colin Bjorkman presented the St. Paul Education Regional Division award to FGM's top Grade 9 student for the 2015-16 school year, Kingslon Zhang.

COUNTY OF ST. PAUL No. 19



HIGHLIGHTS

October 11, 2016 Council Meeting

Policies and Bylaws – Council approved an amendment to DEV-56 policy on County-owned Structures not Requiring a Development Permit. In the new policy, there will be no charge for landowners to file an appeal fee. Council also approved an Asset Management Policy for lifecycle Management of the County's assets which impact the budget; a Volunteer Fire Department Policy which establishes minimum standards in accordance with OH&S and AB Code of Practice for Fire Fighters and an Apprenticeship Training Policy. Council also approved amendments to the Conference and Education Attendance and Vacation and Credit Card Policies.

Council approved bylaws for Taxation of Mobile Units in Manufactured Home Parks, Nonprofit Community Organizations Tax Exemption and Bylaw No. 2016-18 to rescind old bylaws that are no longer required. Copies of the bylaws can be viewed on the County website.

AAMD&C Delegation – Alberta Association of Municipal District & Counties President Al Kemmere, District 5 Director Soren Odegard and Executive Director Gerald Rhodes met with Council to discuss current issues, some of which included the MGA Review, Bill 6, and Centralized Assessment.

Strategic Plan – Administration provided the third quarter update on the 2016 Strategic Business Plan. The 2017 Strategic Plan was also approved. Both plans can be viewed on the County website at www.county.stpaul.ab.ca.

Capital Purchases – At the September Public Works Meeting, Council approved the purchase of two 627K buggies from Finning at a cost of \$660,000 each plus a trade of two 621G buggies, to be leased until the end of 2016 and then paid for in 2017. Council also approved the capital purchase of one 14H motor grader from Finning for \$433,600 plus the 2016 trade of a 2007 14H grader, to be funded from unrestricted surplus. Following discussions at the Strategic Planning sessions, Council approved the purchase of a 2016 Western Star Gravel Truck for \$192,500 to be paid from the 2017 Capital Budget.

CNRL Property Taxes – Council heard from a delegation with CNRL about how they have reduced their operating costs for 2015 and their plans to reduce them further in 2016. The delegation indicated that property taxes are the second highest cost for operating a gas well and therefore requested a 30% reduction. Council denied the request as it will be precedent setting and the County will already experience a decrease in taxation due to reduced assessment on Linear Property that is expected to be between 10-15%.

Organizational Chart – Further to the Organizational Review completed earlier this year along with the retirement of two long time employees in management positions, Council approved a new organizational chart effective January 1, 2017 which is outside of Policy HR-27. The chart reflects the shift in job duties and will help to clarify a reporting structure, as requested by employees during the review.

Recycling Project at Elk Point Transfer Station – has been extended until the end of January, 2017. The pilot project has been successful, with many residents utilizing the recycling service for cardboard, plastics and newspaper. Council agreed to continue with the recycling service and will cost share the annual fee with the Town of Elk Point.

Funding Support:

- \$500 – Mallaig School – Cross Country Provincials
- \$1,000 – FG Miller High School – Golf & Cross Country Provincials
- \$1,250 – Regional High School – Golf and Cross Country Provincials

For more information, contact
Sheila Kitz, CAO, County of St. Paul
At 780-645-3301, ext 208

Influenza is serious. Immunization works. Get Immunized.

Alberta's Influenza Immunization Program begins October 24th.
Influenza immunization will be offered, free of charge, to all
Albertans six months of age and older.

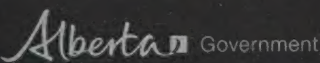
Upcoming Immunization Clinics in Your Area

DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:
Monday, October 24 Thursday, October 27	2 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Pioneers Circle Seniors Centre 5010 48 Street Elk Point
Monday, October 24 Monday, October 31	9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Fishing Lake Communiplex Fishing Lake Settlement
Monday, October 24 Tuesday, October 25 Wednesday, October 26	1 p.m. - 7 p.m. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	All Saints Ukrainian Cultural Centre 5601 51 Street St. Paul

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Influenza Immunization: Cut Albertans' risk for influenza in half last season.

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EDITORIAL

Small business plays huge role

In our community and virtually every other small town across the province and the nation, small businesses play a huge role, both in the economy and in making these communities viable.

It is difficult for small communities to stay alive if these businesses are no longer in place, and recent years have seen a number of hamlets and villages virtually disappear off the map when these businesses close their doors. When it's no longer possible to buy a quart of milk or a loaf of bread in your own community, it leaves not much more to go there for than to pick up your mail.

The more businesses a community has, the more its residents will stay there to shop, eat and congregate rather than going elsewhere to find the goods and services they need in their daily lives. The more support they give these businesses, the more the businesses will be able to give back, in terms of support for community sports, projects and endeavours. The more people those sports and endeavours bring into a community, the more money that will be spent there and the more that community will thrive.

We hesitate to say it, but the time for Christmas shopping is coming up in the next few weeks, and since we will be spending that money anyway, our local businesses would very much appreciate seeing Elk Point and district residents shop at home first... you never know what treasures you'll find right here!

RECREATION CORNER

Pickleball try-out session Thursday

recreation@elkpoint.ca
Review contributor

I'm pretty excited to confirm that a Pickleball information and trial night has been booked! Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America and is great for adults. It's very similar to tennis, but played on a smaller court with a smaller net. This means less running around chasing the ball. The court is easier to get around.

The ball is a wiffle ball and the racket is paddle style. You can play as singles, but most play as doubles or mixed doubles.

There are many tournaments all over Alberta and in snowbird locations like Arizona.

The game is so popular it was added to the Alberta 55+ Summer Games!

Anyone is welcome, but please try to RSVP so I can gather enough paddles and nets.

The information and trial night will be held on October 20th - this Thursday - from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Elk Point Elementary School gym. Instructors will be coming from Bonnyville and St. Paul where there are very active Pickleball clubs.

The evening is at no cost to you. The intention is to see if there is enough interest from the community to start a Pickleball club, and if there is, the Rec Department will assist in getting it going but would ask a club to form on its own from there.

For this session, it is for adults only. Should there be a lot of interest from kids, the Rec Department may look into adding a session for under 18.

To RSVP call or text 7802075898 or email recreation@elkpoint.ca



WAY BACK WHEN...

Town, county and provincial elections, church anniversary

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE ELK POINT REVIEW AND LAKE LAND REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 17 IN...

1986

A pre-election forum was planned for mayoral candidates Ed Buck and Byron Mann, town council candidates Morris Cooper, Stan Dmytrash, Allan Frankiw, Sandy Giffen, Marshall Kachmar, Fred Kryvenchuk, Walter Lesyk, Rodger McLaughlin, Lawrence Pidluzny, Alvina Schuhmacher, Steve Shmyr and Steve Stepaniuk, county council candidates Bob Smith, Fritz Youngmans, Gary Kozicky, John Hutton and John Zenko, school board candidates Janice Van Maaron and June Stone, and hospital board candidates Marvin Bjornstad and Roy Bristow.

1991

Marie Zayac was honoured with a Community Recognition Award, Glen Scott a Rutherford Scholarship and Jon Best the citizenship award at the annual Heinsburg School Awards Night. Elk Point Baptist Church marked a decade in Elk Point, with many former church members coming back to Elk Point for the celebration which featured Pastor John McGregor and MP Deborah Grey among its guest speakers.

1996

Elk Point Volunteer Fire Department showed off their rescue techniques at a Fire Prevention Week open house, with the Elk Point Oilmen's Association on hand to provide barbecued burgers for the crowd who attended. Elk Point Interagency Committee was looking at forming a grassroots health support committee which would ensure the community's needs were made known to the recently formed Area Community Health Council.

2001

Lyle Frisby became Elk Point's new mayor,

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

defeating Bernice Capjack and Mae Hendrickson in the vote, while Dennis Jasinsky was the lone incumbent returned to office, and shared victory with newcomers Parrish Tung, Dwayne Vogel and Manon Joice. Outgoing Mayor Ed Buck and councillors Mae Hendrickson, Walter Lesyk and Dennis Jasinsky had a few parting shots to fire at their final meeting before the election, with Anadarko Canada, the fire department, the trail issue and the County of St. Paul as their targets.

2006

Alberta Progressive Conservative leadership candidate Ed Stelmach visited Elk Point on his campaign tour, and outlined a number of issues at a coffee party at the Seniors' Recreation Centre. Town Council combed through Elk Point's Animal Control Bylaw at their October meeting, and ended up with a commitment to step up enforcement of the bylaw rather than to make amendments.

2011

Lac La Biche - St. Paul MLA started the new legislative session in a new cabinet portfolio after being named the Minister of Transportation.



Elk Point Community Lions held their fun-filled Dinner for Diamonds that featured a hilarious game show and prizes that included a \$1,000 diamond ring going Wendy McMurray (not shown) and subsidiary prizes of diamond jewelry going to (left to right) Jordan Pelech, Joyce Wirsta, Lisa Lapp, Rosemary Rohner, Karolyn Werstiuk and Ellen Seward.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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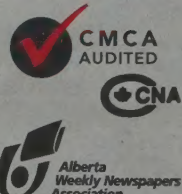
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SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight

October 16 to 22 is
Small Business Week
in Canada

Shop Local and
support our
Small Businesses

Christmas Extravaganza bringing back a favourite to support businesses in big way

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The Christmas Extravaganza committee of the Elk Point and District Chamber of Commerce agreed last Thursday to support local retail businesses in a big way during the November 26 event by bringing back an old favourite – Shoppers' Bingo – with a few new twists, including one that comes from a suggestion submitted by one of the member businesses that replied to an Extravaganza questionnaire circulated by the chamber.

While the bingos of previous decades sent the winners off on train trips to Jasper or flights to Disneyland or Las Vegas, this new adaptation fits much more realistically with the current economic situation, and offers multiple prizes of turkeys and hams for Christmas dinner, following the suggestion of holding a ham and turkey bingo.

Chamber representatives will be approaching local retailers to offer a space on the bingo card for their name, in exchange for a donation toward the prizes. Member businesses will have priority for the spots

forming a 'T' and an 'H', with other businesses and locations of Extravaganza events filling up the balance of the 24 spaces. Prizes of hams would go to the first (a number to be determined) cards drawn that had all the 'H' squares stamped, indicating they had spent at least a set amount, also yet to be determined, at all those businesses, and turkeys to the first cards with all the 'T' spaces filled. There will also be prize draws for single lines and a draw from all the blackout cards submitted.

Another change is that the bingo card can be stamped not only on Extravaganza day, but beginning earlier in the week as well, allowing businesses that are not open on Saturdays to be part of the bingo. Their squares will be clearly marked with the days they are open.

The committee also agreed that only one block of 50 St. needs to be closed for the event, except during the parade, and that the closure does not need to start as early as it did last year, to facilitate parking. They would, however, appreciate all vehicles being removed from 50 Street from 50 Ave. to Railway Ave. by 6 p.m.

for the parade.

Donation letters will be going out to other businesses and industries asking for support of the annual fireworks display and other Extravaganza activities, which the committee was told, could include a toffee-on-snow Sugar Shack.

The committee was delighted to hear that Dwayne Vogel of Prairie Tech has already jumped on the Extravaganza bandwagon, offering two tractors and wagons for the always-popular wagon rides around town. This year, the rides will make a stop at F. G. Miller Crusaders' Craft and Trade Show, and Denise Bjorkman, who oversees that event, is also part of this year's Extravaganza committee and is excited to have the events back on the same day.

Photos with Santa, a roaring bonfire and the Extravaganza parade will once again be on the agenda and the committee is hoping to see the hockey shoot-out, cookie decorating and possibly an outdoor refreshment garden back again this year. Other attractions could be added as local volunteer groups are invited to join the fun.

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Local officials opposed to the federally implemented carbon tax

MEAGAN PECJAK
Bonnyville Nouvelle

Local officials are voicing their opposition to a federally-implemented carbon tax.

On Oct. 3, the federal government announced the proposal of Pan-Canadian pricing on carbon pollution, which would see all Canadian jurisdictions implement carbon pricing by 2018.

The federal government has proposed the pricing as a way of helping the country meet its target gas emissions of 30 per cent below the levels of 2005, by 2022. "Pricing pollution is one of the most efficient ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to stimulate innovation," said Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

Currently, 80 per cent of Canadians are living in a province that has already implemented a price on carbon, the government wants to "continue the trend and cover the final 20 per cent."

Lakeland MP Shannon Stubbs strongly opposes the proposed carbon pricing, and said, "It's not about environmental stewardship, it is not about emissions reduction, it is not about clean air, it's a cash grab, and it's a revenue generator for government."

Bonnyville-Cold Lake MLA Scott Cyr said now is not the time to be imposing more taxes, and emphasized on his concern for unemployed residents in Alberta.

"It is time for the Government of Canada to act on this issue. Albertans have contributed very generously for many years to national initiatives designed to help other regions address economic challenges," said Alberta Premier Rachel Notley. "What we are asking for now is that our landlock be broken, in one direction or another, so that we can get back on our feet."

When in full force, the federal carbon pricing could cost families about \$2,600 per year, which does not include any carbon tax put in place by the provincial government.

"I think it is kicking energy-based provinces while they are down," said Stubbs, adding it will be par-

ticularly harmful to those living in rural, remote and northern communities.

"This will increase the cost of living for all Canadians, and will increase the cost of everything for everyone in every corner of this country, while disproportionately harming rural and remote energy-based communities and provinces."

Stubbs used farmers as an example, and how they are reliant on fuel to run their equipment.

"A Prius can't pull a combine. So the politicians who are promoting carbon taxes say things like, buy a fuel efficient vehicle, or take the bus, or walk more, or bike more, but this reflects the serious rural and urban divide, because that's just not feasible."

The cost for federal carbon pricing would depend on whether it is business or household gas emissions. For businesses, the cost could be greater because of the amount of energy they use. This in turn could increase the price of daily goods and services.

"The problem is, businesses tend to pass these expenses onto the consumers, and that just means more costs in our day to day living," Cyr said.

For example, a trucking company may be required to charge more because of the addition of federal carbon pricing. This would then affect the cost to deliver goods such as groceries to stores, and the stores would be required to increase their prices in order to meet increased costs.

Provinces and territories have two options in terms of implementing the carbon pricing. They can either put a direct price on carbon pollution, or they can adopt a cap-and-trade system.

The proposed pricing on carbon pollution starts at \$10 per tonne in 2018, rising by \$10 per year until 2022, when it should reach \$50 per tonne.

Provinces that choose a cap-and-trade system would be required to reduce the number of greenhouse gas emission permits made to businesses, and reduce the total number of permits every year until they have reached a target greenhouse gas emissions cut that is in line with or greater than that of the federal government.

Should Alberta implement the carbon tax by 2018,

a pricing system would be provided by the federal government.

Any revenues from the carbon pricing would be used as the province sees fit, something Cyr believes doesn't make the pill any easier to swallow. However, should the tax be implemented, he would like to see it be revenue neutral, so for every dollar brought in by the carbon tax, the province would meet by reducing the tax somewhere else.

"That seems to be the direction a lot of provinces are going in," he said, adding by doing this provinces are still getting their point across, without the financial burden to families and businesses.

Alberta's Official Opposition leader Brian Jean, said the Wildrose will campaign on repealing the province's current carbon tax, and do not support the carbon pricing being proposed by the federal government.

"The reality is, families in Alberta need a break. Raising taxes and making life more expensive is not a solution," he continued.

Notley claims she cannot support a federal carbon tax unless a plan is put in place by the federal government to construct a pipeline that will help move Alberta's oil out of province.

Cyr said he is disappointed by Notley's comment, and believes tying the two together is alarming.

Jean agreed, "Premier Notley should not be offering any support for this plan, period. Tying a single pipeline approval to taxation sets a dangerous precedent."

The tax would be reviewed in 2022 in order to ensure it has been effective in terms of lowering gas emissions across the country.

Stubbs compared the proposed federal pricing to the tax implemented in British Columbia, which has not shown a considerable reduction in fuel emissions since its implementation in 2008.

"The carbon tax has led to no significant decreases in gasoline purchases at all... We have a made in Canada example that is held up by these components, as proof, which has shown us the very opposite, that having a carbon tax did not result in reduced emissions."

(Continued on Page 7)

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Lac Sante irrigation system plan gets drowned in complaints

JANANI WHITFIELD
Review Staff

Lac Sante residents have been calling the County of St. Paul to express their concerns about the possibility of an irrigation system being installed on the County of Two Hills' side of the lake, County of St. Paul CAO Sheila Kitz told council at its Oct. 11 meeting.

At the meeting, she said she was disappointed that the County of St. Paul was not consulted about any plans for the lake that it shares with the County of Two Hills. The division's councillor, Maxine Fodness, said she received 15 calls from ratepayers in two days, while county staff also fielded calls. Concerned residents believed that there was an application with Alberta Environment for an irrigation system to draw water from the lake.

Kitz asked council if there was any interest in sending a letter to Alberta Environment, expressing the County's support for farming, but its concerns

about taking water out of a local water body for farming.

"There's no way people are going to be in favour of that," agreed Reeve Steve Upham.

Coun. Glen Ockerman said he wasn't sure about what the letter should say, given that right now, Alberta Environment hadn't made any decisions about the matter.

"I don't know, what do you support... recreation or food?" he asked.

"There's better places to get water," said Upham, with Kitz noting the river is nearby as well.

Ockerman and Coun. Frank Sloan said they both would want to know how much water would be diverted for the irrigation system, with Upham suggesting that a letter be sent to Alberta Environment, asking for the County of St. Paul to be included in any discussion around diverting water from the lake.

Council agreed to have administration send the letter.

Following the meeting, Kitz said

she had been in contact with Alberta Environment, which had clarified that there was no application as of yet about an irrigation system. There

had been a pre-application, but Alberta Environment had indicated that more work had to be done before an application could be considered, she said.

Prentice's passing a shock to former MP Storseth

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

The sudden passing of former Alberta premier Jim Prentice came as a shock to many, last week. News that a small plane Prentice and three others were travelling in had crashed shortly after taking off from Kelowna on Thursday night, was confirmed on Friday.

Former Westlock-St. Paul MP Brian Storseth was in a meeting when a colleague passed the news on to him. At that time, it was still just speculation, but Storseth says he was in shock to hear of the accident.

"He was a good friend, a mentor. He taught me a lot," says Storseth, speaking over the phone just a few days later. "It's an absolute shock. It hurts. It's terrible news."

Storseth worked alongside Prentice when the two were involved in federal politics. Prentice then became in provincial politics, serving as premier in 2014-15.

"He was a great Albertan and a great Canadian," says Storseth.

Also on board the small plane was Dr. Ken Gellatly, businessman Sheldon Reid, and pilot Jim Kruk, who was also

a retired RCMP officer. The four were known as friends, with Gellatly also being the father-in-law to Prentice's daughter.

No one survived the crash. The group was on route to Springbank airport, near Calgary.

According to news reports, the airplane was found just 11 kilometres north of Kelowna airport. There were no emergency or distress calls made, and the initial investigation suggests that the plane was destroyed from high deceleration forces after a vertical descent.

Investigators were on scene last week, and the full investigation will take up to a year to complete.

Storseth credits Prentice for teaching him a lot during their time in politics.

"He was always focused on being a team player," says Storseth, adding, that trait also translated to the ice, when the pair would throw on their equipment and play a game of hockey with friends.

Storseth also noted that it was because of Prentice that many local projects received federal funding, such as the C2 Centre in Bonnyville.

"He was just a great cabinet minister and colleague," says Storseth, adding, "We will all miss him."

Carbon

(Continued from Page 6)

Currently, the province of BC's tax is frozen at \$30 per tonne, a number BC Premier Christy Clark claims will remain the same despite the province's Climate Leadership Team's recommendation to increase the cost by \$10 starting 2018.

In May, the Alberta

government announced the introduction of Bill 20, which will implement a cost on carbon starting Jan. 1, 2017.

Through this bill, Alberta families will be paying an additional \$70 to \$105 per year. Sixty six per cent of those living in the province will receive partial rebates from the government.

Cyr said the tax could cost the average family

about \$1,000 by 2018, and should a federal tax be in place, families could see an overall cost on carbon to a tune of about \$3,600.

Stubbs has started up an online petition, as she believes Canadians aren't in favour of the federal proposal, and invites anyone who is opposed to sign the petition posted on her website shannon-stubbsmp.ca.

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DOWNTOWN ELK POINT IN 1914 included, facing south, Plante's Hotel, C. A. Johnson's Pool Hall and Jim Babcock's store.

Elk Point and District Historical Society is pleased to share these views in memory of our community's merchants of the past, who supplied the needs of previous generations in the early days.



Johnson Bros. Groceries was located in the old townsite, roughly where the Lions sign is today, at the corner of Highway 41 and 50 Ave. This photo dates from about 1912.



OLD MAIN STREET, WINTER 1917 - left to right are C. A. Johnson's store, Elk Point Hall, C. J. Markstad's machinery and Ford agency, Charles Hood home and post office, Caskey Hotel. Not visible between the hall and Markstad's is the bank, which along with those two buildings and Hood's store, were destroyed by fire Feb. 34, 1922.



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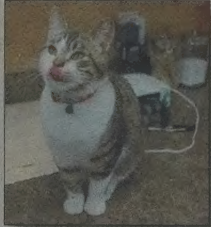
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SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN STREET in the old town, 1922 - left to right are the Caskey barn, the blacksmith shop, Oran Caskey's garage, pool hall, F. E. Van Arnham Real Estate, Martin Johnson's store.



MAIN STREET, Elk Point, looking north in 1937.



MAIN STREET, ELK POINT was filled with gleaming collector vehicles and an enthusiastic crowd for Elk Point Auto Club's Show and Shine early this June.

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F. G. Miller High salutes 2015-16 Honours students



GRADE 11 HONOURS for 2015-16 went to, left to right: Kelly Raymond, Vanessa Ockerman, Christopher Boratynec, Eric Stuparyk and (not shown) Hailey Berlinguette.



ACHIEVING HONOURS IN GRADE 10 for the 2015-16 school year were, left to right: Jaden Palska, Megan Phillips, Warren Ference, Morgan Baker, Nolan Vogel, Dana Gibson, Brayden Fairbairn.



GRADE 9 HONOUR STUDENTS for 2015-16 were, front, left to right: Kingslon Zhang, Nicholas Anderson, Sam Urquhart, Carson Vogel; back, left to right: Andrew Richer, Graham Stuparyk, Corbin Ockerman, Parker Allen Kaiden Evans-Anderson and not shown, Abby Baker.

Certificates were presented to these high achievers at the Oct. 6 assembly... Congratulations, and keep up the good work!



GRADE 8 HONOURS for 2015-16 went to, left to right: Hank Rogal, Rhianna Bjorkman, Hayden Ludlage, Katelyn Boratynec and James Kozicki.



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2015-16 GRADE 7 HONOURS recipients were, left to right: Mykaela Verenka, Micah Urquhart, Devon Nazarchuk, Daniel Cardinal, Liam Ludlage and Jorja Theriault.



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SPERD enrolment almost equal estimates for 2016-17 school year

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

Enrolment projections are nearly exactly where St. Paul Education Regional Division administrators estimated they would be for the 2016-17 school year.

A total of 4,005 students are enrolled at SPERD schools this year. That is seven students up from where administration estimated, but still below the 2015 enrolment number of 4,041.

Superintendent Glen Brodziak told school board trustees at last week's regular board meeting that staffing was looking all right across the division. The decision was made to hire a full-time staff member for Two Hills Mennonite since it was proving too hard to hire a 0.5 position.

Foreign Travel

The board has agreed to allow Ashmont Secondary to move forward with a trip abroad that had been

postponed following the 2015 Paris attacks. Originally, students were planning a trip to Europe.

The company through which the trip was booked allowed the school to defer the trip for a year, and the school board recommended students stay within North America. The decision was made to head to Hawaii, and although it may sound like a "glamorous" location, Brodziak noted there are a lot of educational opportunities that student will take part in, such as visiting Pearl Harbour.

"I think it's a good balance," said Brodziak, when speaking of the location change. He added that the idea of foreign travel has been discussed, with school divisions sharing different views on the topic.

Board chair Heather Starosielski said there are many risks, including health risks, when travelling abroad, which could also be "our new reality."

Modular classrooms

Glen Avon School remains the top priority for

SPERD when considering modular classroom requests. The division had requested two portables for the school last year, but did not receive them.

The school's utilization rate is now near the 88 per cent range, which translates to 531 students at the K-12 school. The staff members at the school have had to use some ingenuity to make things work, but "they are making it work," said Brodziak.

New schools

The contractor has been on site at the new Ashmont School for a couple weeks now, and a sod turning ceremony was scheduled to take place yesterday at the site. Meanwhile, the Two Hills Mennonite School is continuing to make progress, and school board trustees were scheduled to go have a site visit in the near future.

Results

(Continued from Page 3)

The superintendent said he was very proud of the division's report card, and "Like every year, there are some areas we need to work on."

"Standardized provincial assessments complement day-to-day teacher observations and classroom assessment and allow parents, teachers and school authorities to identify strengths and areas for growth," according to information from SPERD.

The division will now work at examining trends in the Grade 6 results, which appear to be an area that needs some extra attention. Math assessments will also continue to be monitored, and the division will be taking steps toward improving factors that contribute to students being successful in elementary math.

A summary of 2015-16 diploma achievement results was presented at Wednesday's board meeting and includes the following highlights:

Overall, diploma examination results (percentage of students achieving the standard) are con-

sistent with or exceed provincial results at the acceptable standard in English 30-2, Social 30-2, Math 30-2, Physics 30, and Science 30. They are also consistent with or exceed provincial results at the standard of excellence in English 30-2, Biology 30, and Science 30.

Results are near or slightly below provincial results at the acceptable standard (within 5% of the province) in English 30-1, Math 30-1, Biology 30. And they are near or slightly below provincial results at the standard of excellence (within five per cent of the province) in English 30-1, Social 30-1, Social 30-2, Math 30-1, and Chemistry 30.

Results are below provincial results at the acceptable standard (more than five per cent below the province) in Social 30-1 and Chemistry 30. They are below provincial results at the standard of excellence (more than 5% below the province) for Math 30-2 and Physics 30.

A summary of 2015-16 achievement test results were also presented. Overall, provincial achievement test results (percentage of students achieving the standard) are consistent with or exceed provin-

cial results at the acceptable standard in French Language Arts 6, French Language Arts 9, English Language Arts 9 Knowledge & Employability (K & E), Math 9 K & E.

Results are consistent with or exceed provincial results at the standard of excellence in French Language Arts 6, Math 9 K & E, and Science 9 K & E. And they are near or slightly below provincial results at the acceptable level in Math 9, Science 9, Science 9 Knowledge & Employability, Social Studies 9, Social Studies 9 K & E.

Results are near or slightly below provincial results at the standard of excellence in English Language Arts 9 K & E, Math 9, Science 9, Social Studies 9, Social Studies 9 K & E. They are below provincial results at the acceptable standard in English Language Arts 6, English Language Arts 9, Math 6, Science 6, and Social Studies 6.

Results are below provincial results at the standard of excellence in English Language Arts 6, English Language Arts 9, Math 6, Science 6, Social Studies 6, and French Language Arts 9.

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Weather better for hockey than for harvest

Most years in early October some of our coaching staff are still out in the fields getting their crops off and into the bin and don't show up for the first couple of weeks for practices. But it's looking like they will all have way more time on their hands for hockey this fall.

In fact, it was a bit of a skating rink outside this past weekend. Not great for combining or really anything else. Not that great in the oil patch either when it's like this. My very first year working in Elk Point was just like this, that was the fall of 1984. The snow and cold weather came in September and never left. I worked almost all of that fall and winter outside, starting and repairing trucks and other heavy equipment. We didn't have a shop at that time to work or park in. We used tiger torches, jeep heaters and parachutes since we never had the luxury of working inside. I learned how to layer up and dress for any kind of weather. Made you appreciate the day when you could park inside and everything started in the morning.

Hockey was like that at one time too. Teams played outside and shoveled off the rink when it snowed. Kids put their skates on in the snow bank and were really lucky if they had a warm up

shack. Everyone bundled up to watch the game. Now it's really hard to watch any kind of practice without the heat on, let alone a game.

I was reading about Wayne Gretzky in the Edmonton Journal the other day, he was answering questions about the new NHL players' skills compared to when he played. Everyone is thrilled that he's now back with the Oiler organization. He commented how they game had changed and how he

thinks playing outside on the pond gives the kids more creativity. Kids never learn how to try new things because practices are too much about systems and plays and you can't learn skills like shooting and skating in the game. But what about Connor McDavid or Austin Matthews? How the heck did they become so good? Did they play outside? Or are they just that naturally talented? It's true, kids can still play hockey outside on the pond or road hockey if they really want to. But, why don't they? Too many other things to do. Wayne never had cell phones or I-pods to compete with. Everyone was outside most of the time. Kids back then either played outside or had to work around home or on the farm, that was it. Even a few years ago all the

electronic devices were not as big of a distraction.

I know one guy named Mark 'the Marksman' Letestu who played minor hockey here in Elk Point and now is with the Edmonton Oilers. He used to borrow a net from the arena every summer to take home to shoot at. And look at him now: a terrific face off man, and special teams player. He's off to a great start to the season. Did you happen to see his short handed breakaway goal this past Friday night? I think he's even gotten a bit faster now than he ever was.

Anyway, this is the way I see it. You need natural talent, yes, but also the desire to improve and that takes practice, a lot of practice. And if you're willing to put in the extra time, it will pay off for you. The 'Marksman' had natural talent, but he worked hard to get better. And there's still kids out there who have that desire. Always has been, always will be.

The minor hockey teams are up and running and all of them held their first practices this past week. One team, the Atoms, whose head coach James Capjack is one of those farmers we mentioned earlier, even had an extra practice on Saturday. The league games

haven't started yet, but they will real soon, in fact the scheduling meeting was held on this past Saturday and the North East League games will start this coming weekend. Coming up this weekend, the Pee wee Avalanche are hosting Plamondon at 3 p.m. on Saturday. Pee wee hockey used to have body contact and it was removed about three years ago. Personally I liked the body contact, it made men out of boys, but the players' equipment is bigger and lighter, they skate faster and they hit harder. The stats show kids are quitting hockey at the pee wee level because of contact, or so they say, so this is a way to keep them in the sport longer. But it's still hard for us old school guys to accept. Some of the more skilled players have a chance to shine, but it sure is tough on the defenseman who has to try to stop someone without a little contact. Another debate for another day when it's too wet to cut hay!!

A big happy birthday going out today to pee wee player who is not a very big man, but has a huge heart and a huge desire to learn the game and become better, Kobe 'the Cobra' Warawa.

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week: 'Every day is a great day for hockey.'

Outdoor Leisure Show cancelled

Word came in just before press time from the Elk Point and District Lions Club, that the group has cancelled the Outdoor Leisure Show originally slated for this coming Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre.



COYOTE / WOLF REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The County of St. Paul No. 19 will be reinstating the

Coyote/Wolf Reduction Incentive Program for the 2016/2017 Winter Season.



The County will pay an incentive of \$15.00 per Coyote and \$75.00 per Wolf harvested during the period from November 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

(Please note that this Program may terminate at an earlier date than the March 31, 2017 deadline, subject to budget limitations and/or abuse of the Program.)

ASB STAFF WILL ACCEPT CARCASSES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

The number of Coyotes/Wolves eligible to be turned in for the incentive payment will be limited to a maximum number of 20 Coyotes/Wolves per week and a total season maximum of 100 Coyotes/Wolves, per resident/landowner. Only one member/resident family is eligible to participate in this Coyote/Wolf Incentive Program.

The Coyote/Wolf carcasses must be brought to the Public Works Shop for verification. When bringing the Coyote/Wolf carcasses to the Public Works Shop, please ensure that they are covered with a tarp to avoid displaying them to the general public. The carcasses will be returned to the resident who will be responsible to dispose of them properly.

Only whole, unskinned animals are accepted for payment; pelts are not eligible for payment. To qualify for the Incentive Program Payment, arrangements must be made with Agricultural Service Board Staff prior to bringing the Coyotes/Wolves in for the payment, to assure there is someone available to deal with the carcasses.

Please contact Keith Kornelsen, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman or Warren Leister, ASB Field Officer at the Public Works Shop, Phone 780-645-3006 to arrange for an appointment or for more information.

KELLY RADCLIFFE Elk Point Skating Club

Elk Point Skating Club is gearing up to begin their new season. They will be running with canskate, junior figure skating, starskate and powerskating again.

The biggest change they have for this upcoming season is a new coach, Tracy Doctor. Doctor has been coaching for nearly 20 years, and has been part of the figure skating world for 30 years. She will be working with the skaters to help get them ready for competitions and tests, as well as get the little ones moving. With the many years of experience, the club is very excited to get the season going.

Dennell Anderson will be continuing to teach the pre power and power skating program, and also used to train with Doctor back in the day.

The skating club has a very exciting season coming up, with the first competition already being in the beginning of December in Edmonton. They are excited to watch all their skaters grow in

their skating, and for any changes that come with the new coach on the ice. The club will also have a

dance team training with them, a team that will be competing at provincials on November 5.



ELK POINT'S NEW COACH Tracy Doctor is looking forward to an exciting season with the Elk Point Skating Club.

AAMDC

(Continued from Page 2)

Reeve Steve Upham said he saw a big reduction in employees on farms, estimating that employment in farming has gone down 12 per cent since January; he wondered if the government had recognized how Bill 6 had affected farmers.

"The work still has to get done," he said, adding people are loathe to hire workers though if it means increased

regulations.

Coun. Frank Sloan said that instead of hiring a worker to help build a fence or a granary, farmers are now hiring contractors to do the work.

"I know that's the way it went," he said, adding, "It's affected the industry."

Kemmere said the price of equipment was also playing a factor in farmers' decision-making. He said more details about consultations would be shared with municipalities in a future information workshop.

Many supportive programs now available to assist Alberta seniors

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The County of St. Paul and Elk Point recently hosted a pair of information sessions on programs and services the provincial government provides for seniors, with Mary Jane Tkachuk, Senior Benefits Officer, with Alberta Seniors and Community Supports giving an overview of the many supports available from provincial, federal and municipal governments. The first of these sessions was Oct. 4 at Heritage Lodge, Elk Point, with 33 seniors on hand while the second session in Mallaig, the following day, saw 30 seniors attending.

Many of the provincial programs are income based, and recipients must meet the eligibility requirements, which include being at least 65 years of age, having lived in Alberta at least three months, being a Canadian citizen or have been admitted to Canada as a permanent resident as a landed or sponsored immigrant, and have an income level within the threshold for each program. Recipients also must not have deferred receiving Old Age Security.

The benefit year, Tkachuk said, starts July 1, and income is based on the previous year's income, "generally the actual income shown on your income tax form, and it's recalculated every year from information collected from the federal government." Seniors receive an application form for seniors' benefits six months before they turn 65, and "it's a lifetime application. You will get a letter each year telling you if you fall within the income guidelines" for programs.

The Alberta Seniors Benefit Program has been around since 1994, she noted and provides a monthly income supplement for those whose full OAS pension is part of an income of \$26,965 or less for a single

senior or \$43,785 for a senior couple. "It's calculated on where you live and your marital status, and can range up to \$280 for a single senior or \$420 for a senior couple." Seniors in long-term care facilities are eligible for a supplementary accommodation benefit, Tkachuk added. These benefits are terminated in the month of a senior's death or if they leave the province or country for more than six months.

Special Needs Assistance has been available 1995 to provide low-income seniors funding for a range of expenses, from appliances to health and personal supports. The assistance depends on where the senior lives, what they are applying for and if the senior or seniors has an income below the same levels as the Alberta Seniors Benefit Program. The assistance is available for both primary expenses, such as appliances and basic furniture, health supports ranging from sleep apnea machines to diabetic supplies, nutritional beverages, podiatry and prescriptions, personal supports such as celiac groceries, clothing, a spouse's funeral expenses, home cleanup, lift chairs and medical trips, and for secondary expenses, ranging from foot orthotics to respite care. "If you are not over 80, you need a letter from your doctor" to receive these secondary benefits, Tkachuk said.

The letters that seniors receive each July also indicate their eligibility for the Dental and Optical Assistance programs, which can provide basic dental coverage to a maximum of \$5,000 every five years, and the purchase of prescription eyeglasses every three years. Those with income in the Alberta Seniors Benefit guidelines would receive maximum coverage for dental and up to \$230 for optical, while single seniors with a maximum income of up to \$31,675 or couples up to \$63,350 would receive partial coverage

or up to \$115.

The Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair program came into effect last July 1, and is "a low interest loan program that lets seniors remain independent" with home repairs and adaptations. Loans from \$500 to \$40,000 are available and monthly payments are not required, the amount can be paid back as funding is available or when the home is sold or the senior passes away. The loans are available to seniors with a household income of \$75,000 or less and at least 25 per cent equity in their home after the loan.

The Seniors Property Tax Deferral program is "a loan program for eligible seniors," Tkachuk said, allowing them to defer all or part of their property tax through a low-interest home equity loan from the provincial government for up to 10 years at 2.7 per cent interest, "with no monthly payments unless you wish to make them." This loan, which puts a caveat on your home's title, is administered by ATB Financial.

Tkachuk added that Alberta Seniors and Housing has "a lot of resources" to help seniors, and also has information on such topics as elder abuse and much more. "Terry Shankowski and Janice Fodchuk are available locally to help you, and Loris Kozina is also a resource," she told the Elk Point audience in closing, before going on to answer a number of individual queries from the seniors in the audience.



FRIENDS ASSIST LIBRARY - Friends of the Elk Point Library president Sherry Milholland presented two \$5,000 cheques from funds raised by working bingos and a casino to librarian Daphne Schnurer to assist with upcoming expenses at Elk Point Municipal Library.

Influenza vaccination time is here

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

Influenza season has arrived, and is already being noted in southern Alberta. Flu vaccination clinics will begin being offered around the area, and across the province, in an effort to reach as many Albertans as possible, starting Oct. 24.

"Everyone is at risk of influenza, and anyone can get very sick and develop complications," says information from Alberta Health Services. And Dr. Gerhardt Benade, medical officer of health with AHS, is clear about the importance of Albertans getting the influenza vaccine.

"Influenza is a serious disease," he says, noting that over 1,600 Albertans were hospitalized last year with influenza related complications, and 60 deaths were noted as a result of complications from the flu.

Last season, less than 30 per cent of Albertans received their influenza vaccine, which is available free of charge to all Albertans over the age of six months.

"The more people we get vaccinated, the harder it is for the virus to spread," says Dr. Benade, adding, "We can do better."

One dose of influenza vaccine is needed to protect you through each influenza season, runs from late fall through winter. If a child is less than nine years of age and getting influenza vaccine for the first time, they will need two doses of vaccine this season, given at least four weeks apart.

Also, it's important to be vaccinated every season if a person is looking to be protected since influenza viruses change every season.

"By getting the influenza vaccine each season, you will be protected against the viruses that could otherwise make you sick," says information from AHS.

How well a vaccine works changes from one season to another, which is why a new vaccine is made every year to protect against the three or four viruses that are most likely to cause sickness in that season.

But, even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match the viruses going around, it can still give some protection, according to AHS.

"Overall, the vaccine lowers your risk of getting influenza by about half. Even if you do get influenza, it won't be as bad and won't last as long as if you didn't get immunized," says the information.

Protection against influenza starts about two weeks after the vaccine is given.

"And immunization works," states Dr. Benade, simply. And although there are other measures to prevent the spread of influenza, such as washing your hands

with warm water and soap, covering your cough or sneeze with your arm or tissue rather than your hand, along with staying at home when you're sick, the influenza vaccine is a very critical component in preventing the flu.

Dr. Benade encourages Albertans to visit the AHS influenza website to get information on upcoming flu clinics throughout the season, for updates on how influenza is spreading throughout the province, and even hospitalizations being confirmed through lab testing.

"As soon as the vaccine is available, we would encourage people to go to the closest public health clinic and get their shot."

Drop-in Flu Clinic Dates

Elk Point - Oct. 24 and Oct. 27, 2 to 7 p.m. at Pioneers Circle Seniors Centre

Elk Point - Nov. 7, Nov. 18, Nov. 25, and Dec. 16, 9 to 11 a.m., Elk Point Community Health Services.

St. Paul - Oct. 24 and Oct. 25, 1 to 7 p.m. at All Saints Ukrainian Cultural Centre; and Oct. 26, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

St. Paul - Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Nov. 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 14 and Nov. 15, from 1 to 7 p.m.; Nov. 28, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Dec. 5 and Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at St. Paul Community Health Services.

THANK YOU

Thank You

The Skolarchuk family would like to express a sincere Thank You to the members of our local EMS, Fire Department and RCMP who attended to Walter at our home on Sept 2, 2016. The efforts, support and understanding of all present were greatly appreciated.

Thank you to our family, friends and neighbors who shared with us the Celebration of Walter's life. Your thoughtfulness, generosity and support through messages, visits and care packages helped to lighten our burden. Thank you to everyone who made donations in memory of Walter.

Sincere thank you to Leanne, Lorne and staff at Grace Gardens Funeral Chapel for their kindness, guidance and support during this difficult and sad time for our family.

- Helen Skolarchuk and Family

THANK YOU



ADOLPH PORCINA

Thank You

The family of Adolph Porcina would like to express their gratitude for all the thoughtfulness, love, support, and hospital visits. We sincerely appreciate your prayers, personal visits, phone calls, cards, e-mails, floral arrangements, food, and charitable donations during the loss of our loved one.

Thank you to Dr. Mahood and staff, the ICU doctors, nurses, and all other staff at the Royal Alex Hospital, for your compassionate and loving care. Thank you Dr. Ramful for all the local medical care as required. A special thank you to Archbishop Joseph, and Fr. John Lipinski for officiating at the prayer service and funeral, cantor Lloyanne Galas, and reader Carissa Maksymec. Thank you to grandson Ethan Porcina for being the Cross Bearer, to all the active and honorary pallbearers, Allen Warawa and Murry Nielsen for delivering the Eulogy and to every one who attended the prayer and funeral services.

Thank you to Larissa and staff at Grace Gardens Funeral Chapel for your professional guidance and patience during our very difficult time.

Thank you to Centennial Seniors Centre members for serving donuts and refreshments after the prayer service, and to the Empress Restaurant for preparing and serving a scrumptious lunch after the funeral.

You will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

Lesia, Sheldon & Krista, Curtis & Jaime, Lori & Kim, and families.

Small business owners challenged by economy

JANANI WHITFIELD
Review Staff

Whether it's a new business looking to break new ground or a long-standing one looking to maintain and grow its market, 2016 – and a dramatic drop in oil and gas activity – has posed challenges that small business owners have strived to meet.

St. Paul has seen new businesses opening in the past year and some revitalization in the downtown core, something St. Paul and District Chamber of Commerce president Kevin Bernhardt is happy to see. However, he cautions, "You can't just look at the positives and wave a flag and say we've done it, because there's so many unknowns in the future."

He pointed to the incoming carbon tax, minimum wage hikes, and the ever-present question on the price of oil as some of these question marks for small businesses going forward.

For some, 2015 and 2016 have offered the chance to seize a new opportunity. Dave O'Neill moved back to St. Paul in 2015 after an absence of 20 years to be closer to his mother and help her out with renovations to her house. Before that, he had been offering landscaping services in Red Deer, but with the slowdown hitting that area earlier than this pocket of northeast Alberta, the time seemed right in other ways to move back home.

"I talked to a couple of the landscapers in town, and they were thinking of getting out of it, simply because they'd like to retire," he said, adding it seemed

like a good idea to help them out with jobs, while developing his own business in St. Paul, O'Neill Landscaping and Design.

Things have been a little slower to get going because of the general economic climate, he said, noting, "It takes more work to get work. Other than that, it seems like a great time, because your costs are low."

For O'Neill, this held true for buying equipment that bigger companies were looking to offload, and he believes purchasing land or a building for his business may see him land a better deal as well.

The change in the economy has affected long-time businesses as well.

Sharon Berlinguette of St. Paul Industrial Sewing (formerly St. Paul Upholstery) said she's noticed a change in business as well. Previously, she did a number of jobs for oil and gas companies, but in the last two years, those numbers have taken consecutive drops.

In that economy, she's had to work a little harder to be competitive, discounting prices, hunting for supplies more, buying in bulk, and working longer or driving to see people, rather than waiting for them to come to her, "just to manage and stay alive," she says.

In other ways, the economic slowdown has seen an increase in other types of jobs she receives, for instance, in clients who want to get kitchen chairs, boat tarps or quad covers fixed at a more reasonable rate rather than spend the money to buy a brand new replacement.

"Somehow, that works out."

In Elk Point, however, which has been fueled by oil and gas activity in recent years, the effect of the current economy is more dramatic, according to Sherry Oszust, owner of Kelly's Closet.

"Elk Point is so dependent on the oil industry, and with that declining in the last two years, almost all businesses in town are feeling the hit," she said. Her business, which has been open for 20 years, used to see customers coming from around the area, including Bonnyville and St. Paul. While St. Paul customers have dropped as well, her Bonnyville customers have dropped as much as 50 per cent or more, she estimates.

"I'm just trying to ride it through, being very careful with inventory levels, that sort of thing," she said, adding the minimum wage hike is one of her concerns going forward.

"I just think people in this area, if they want to see their businesses stay in the area, they really need to support local businesses. When we're gone, we're gone and then when they need us, we're not here," she said, adding her hope people support local, instead of shopping online.

"Of all times, this is the time for people to support their local businesses."

Hunting waste dumped

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

A hunter himself, Dick Brown was appalled when he came across over 55 dead geese and over a dozen dead ducks dumped on his property in the Perch Lake area.

He noted that the hunters had removed the meat they wanted from the animals, but left the carcasses at Brown's hayfield gate in late September. Aside from it being unsightly, Brown's bigger concern was that the rotting remains would attract bears to the area, which is located only about 300 metres from his home.

And his concern was proven accurate.

"There were definitely bear tracks there," says Brown, who noted other wild animals had been feeding off the remains.

He admits that although in his experience it's a rare occur-

rence to see irresponsible people dump animal remains where they shouldn't, it does happen, and a reminder on proper etiquette may be needed this hunting season.

"It hasn't been bad lately," says Brown, when asked if he's seen similar cases in the past. He noted that he did see a moose carcass, or pieces of a carcass, was left in a ditch along the side of the road once, which appeared to have been dumped by someone.

With land of his own, Brown says that when he hunts, he is sure to take any leftovers to a far area of his own private land, where coyotes can feast, but his pets and home are safe from the wild animals that will be attracted to the free meal.

"We take it as far away as possible."

If a hunter has no land of his or her own to take carcasses, then they can

start by asking friends who might have bait piles. And if that doesn't work, then people are asked to take animal remains to the Evergreen Regional Landfill, which ironically isn't very far away from Brown's home.

It is not advised that people dump animal remains in dumpsters at transfer stations, but rather bring the remains to the landfill so it can be disposed of properly and safely.

Brown is hopeful he won't run into any similar incidents this year, since he often walks his dogs in the area, and see people enjoying the area with ATVs.

"The last thing you need is a rotting mess."

For more information about disposing of waste at the Evergreen Regional Landfill, call (780) 646-6125. Regular fees do apply at the landfill for disposal of waste.

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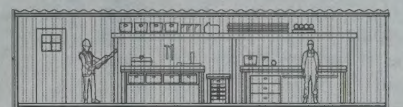
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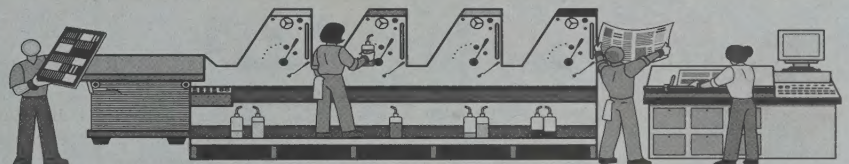
Elk Point Review - 780-724-4087**St. Paul Journal - 780-645-3342****130. Coming Events****26TH ANNUAL Red Deer Christmas Antique Show & Sale.** Oct. 22 & 23, Sat. 10 - 5 & Sun. 10 - 4. Westerner Exposition Grounds. Over 350 Sales Tables. Canadiana furniture and collectibles. Carswell's 403-343-1614.**310. Education/Training****ACCOUNTING & PAYROLL** trainees needed! Learn to process payroll & use Quickbooks now! No experience needed! Local training gets you job ready asap! Call for details! 1-888-748-4130.**MEDICAL TRAINEES** needed now! Hospitals & doctor's offices need certified medical office & administrative staff! No experience needed! We can get you trained! Local job placement assistance available when training is completed. Call for program details! 1-888-627-0297.**1040. Careers****1500. Help Wanted — Alta.****PROFESSIONAL Opportunities:** Troyer Ventures Ltd. is a privately owned energy services company servicing Western Canada. All job opportunities include competitive wages, comprehensive benefits package and room for advancement. We are accepting applications at multiple branches for: Professional Drivers (Class 1, 3) and Swampers. Successful candidates will be self-motivated and eager to learn. Experience is preferred, but training is available. Valid safety tickets and current drivers abstract are required. For more information and to apply, please visit our website at: Troyer.ca**1040. Careers****3210. Misc. For Sale****SAWMILLS** from only \$4,397 - Make money & save money with your own bandmill - Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. Free info & DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com/4000T 1-800-566-6899 Ext 4000T.**STEEL BUILDING SALE.** "Blowout Sale On Now!" 21X23 \$4,998. 25X25 \$5,996. 27X27 \$6,992. 32X35 \$9,985. 42X45 \$14,868. One end wall included. Pioneer Steel 1-855-212-7036; www.pioneersteel.ca.**LOOKING FOR a shop?** Post Frame Buildings. AFAB Industries has experience, expertise, reliability and great construction practices. For a free quote, contact Ryan Smith 403-818-0797 or email: ryan.afab@gmail.com.**1040. Careers****4310. Grain/Feed/Hay****HEATED CANOLA** buying Green. Heated or Springthatched Canola. Buying: oats, barley, wheat & peas for feed. Buying damaged or offgrade grain. "On Farm Pickup" Westcan Feed & Grain. 1-877-250-5252.**5003. Real Estate Misc.****2 AND A 1/2 quarters** of land near Prince Albert, SK with nice full yard & beautiful garden. Grows good crops. Great opportunity for starter farmer. \$427,500. Call Doug for further details 306-716-2671; saskfarm@shaw.ca.**2 UNDEVELOPED MEDIUM** Density Residential Lots - Lac La Biche, Alberta. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, October 26 in Edmonton. 0.89+/- and 0.84+/- title acres. Undeveloped. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652. Broker: All West Realty Ltd.; rbauuction.com/realstate.**17 INDUSTRIAL LOTS** West Hill Business Park, Peace River, Alberta. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction on November 22 in Grande Prairie. Contact Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; rbauuction.com/realstate. All West Realty Ltd., Broker.**5800. Manuf. Homes - Sale****WE ARE "Your Total Rural Housing Solution"** - Save up to \$9000 on your Manufactured Home during our 45 Year Anniversary Celebration. Visit: www.Unitedhomescanada.com; www.Grandviewmodular.com.**7245. Misc. Services****CRIMINAL RECORD?** Think: Canadian pardon. U.S. travel waiver. Divorce? Simple. Fast. Inexpensive. Debt recovery? Alberta collection to \$25,000. Calgary 403-228-1300/1-800-347-2540**REACH OVER 1 Million** Readers Weekly. Advertise Province Wide Classifieds. Only \$269 + GST (based on 25 words or less). Call now for details 1-800-282-6903 ext. 228; www.awna.com.**GET BACK on track!** Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed? Need money? We lend! If you own your own home - you qualify. Pioneer Acceptance Corp. Member BBB. 1-877-987-1420; www.pioneerwest.com.**7310. Health Services****CANADA BENEFIT GROUP** - Do you or someone you know suffer from a disability? Get up to \$40,000 from the Canadian Government. Toll free 1-888-511-2250 or www.canadabenefit.ca/free-assessment.**MEDICAL CONDITION?** Get up to \$40,000 from the Government of Canada. Do you or someone you know have any of these conditions? ADHD, anxiety, asthma, cancer, COPD, depression, diabetes, difficulty walking, fibromyalgia, irritable bowels, overweight, trouble dressing and hundreds more. All ages & medical conditions qualify. Call the Benefits Program 1-800-211-3550.**7245. Misc. Services****NEVER SHOCK CHLORINATE AGAIN**
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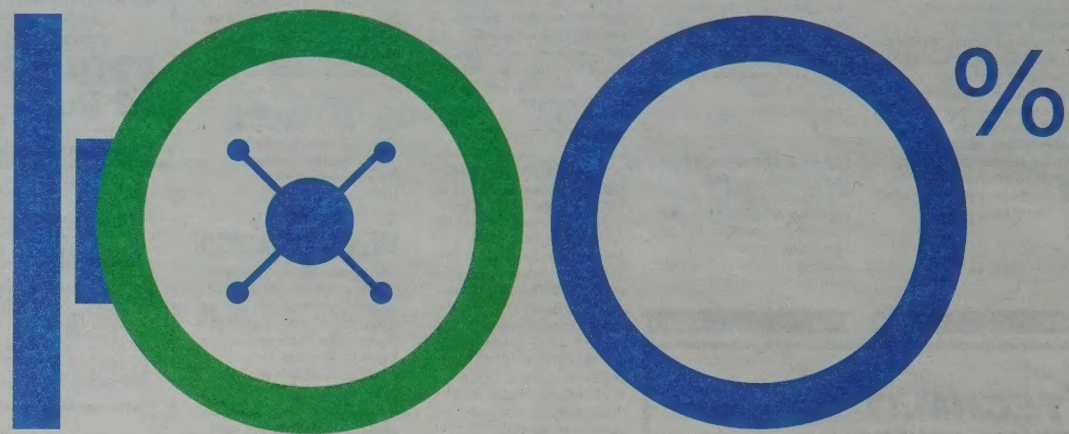
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